

REMARKS:

In the Office Action dated December 27, 2006, claims 21-25, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-30 and 35 have been canceled and claims 31-34 remain in the application.

Claims 21-25 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) or alternatively under 35 USC §103(a) as anticipated by or obvious over Dupont (U.S. Patent No. 5,618,925). Claims 1-30 and 35 have been canceled in order to advance the prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a divisional application. Since the remaining claims 31-34 were indicated as allowed in the office action, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Monica Chin Kitts/

Monica Chin Kitts
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,105
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202)783-6040

MCK/cb